

revolutionaries to throw off the colonial chains in the 18th century. Crispus Attucks, the first to die in the American war of independence against England was said to be from the Caribbean. Their thoughts also dart to Prince Hall, the Caribbean immigrant who devised a plan for the education of Blacks in Massachusetts and who fought to end slavery in the United States, the Caribbean and indeed the rest of the world.

Frederick Douglass, the 19th century golden trombone of the abolition movement that helped to erase the bloody stain of immorality spawned by slavery in the Americas in general and the United States in particular, once paid tribute to the role of West Indians in that epic struggle.

Zeroing in on Emancipation Day in the West Indies in the first half of the 19th century, he described it as "the first bright star in a stormy sky—the first smile after a long providential frown—the first ray of hope—the first tangible fact demonstrating the possibility of a peaceful transition from slavery to freedom, of the Negro race."

Few, if any one, could say it better.

Whoever else, he went on, may either seek to forget or slight the claim of that historic day, "it can never be said of us other than memorable and glorious."

Almost a 100 years later Marcus Garvey and others took up the torch to illuminate the path to political and economic self-determination and much later still, Malcolm X, Shirley Chisholm and a host of others served as standard bearers for those principles of equality for Blacks with the rest of humanity.

The vibrant Caribbean communities across the land have every reason to be proud of their heritage and shouldn't forget those who helped them along the way to turn the dream of a Caribbean Heritage Month into reality.

Their Black brothers and sisters on Capitol Hill and their supporters of every color and ethnic background in and out of the House of Representatives and the Senate must be hailed and recognized for what they have done in bringing about the official recognition and the celebrations that showcase that heritage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker, due to Georgia's primary elections, I was absent from the House of Monday, July 14, and Tuesday, July 15, and missed several rollcall votes. Had I been present I would have voted in the following manner: H. Res. 1067—"Yes"; H. Res. 1080—"Yes"; H. Con. Res. 297—"Yes"; H. Res. 1259—"Yes"; H. Res. 1323—"Yes"; Passage, Objections of the President Notwithstanding, of H.R. 6331—"Yes"; Motion To Refer Kucinich Privileged Resolution—Yes; H.R. 5803—"Yes"; and H. Res. 1090—"Yes."

THE CARIBBEAN SOLUTION FOR AIRLINE CHALLENGES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts being made by the

Caribbean Tourism Organization, CTO, and the Caribbean Hotel Association, CHA, to increase Caribbean revenue through the tourism sector.

Increasing airline cutbacks have posed a great challenge to many nations; however the Caribbean has seen an opportunity through this challenge. Through the CTO and CHA, Caribbean nations have decided to pool their resources. Many Caribbean destinations are reached with a connection in Puerto Rico, hence an increase in flights to Puerto Rico would mean increased access to the Caribbean.

I would like to recognize all who are involved in this transition for heightened cooperation and coordination within the Caribbean community. These efforts not only contribute to the unification of the Caribbean, but will build up the economies of the region as a whole.

[From the CaribNews, July 8, 2008]

AIRLINE CHALLENGES LEAD TO WHAT COULD BECOME UNPRECEDENTED COOPERATION AMONG CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS

The current economic difficulties facing the airline industry worldwide have provided numerous challenges to the destinations they serve, but have led to at least one positive in the Caribbean region: what could become an unprecedented level of cooperation and coordination among Caribbean governments. The airline challenges have caused many to recognize that they can deliver far more benefits to their citizens by cooperating with other governments than by acting alone.

This coordination level accelerated recently when the Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and the President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) had the foresight to call an emergency meeting in Antigua for Ministers and Commissioners responsible for Tourism, Ministers and Commissioners responsible for Aviation, and members of the tourism private sector to find ways to minimize the impact on their economies brought on by rapid increases in airline fuel prices. It soon became clear to every participant at that meeting that by cooperating on the establishment of hubs, on the promotion of the region, on providing revenue guarantees to airlines and on coordinating the establishment of more efficient intra-regional carriers, all Caribbean countries would suffer less than if each country attempted to address the crisis on its own.

The case of Caribbean hubs, and in particular the case of the Puerto Rico hub, was most instructive. The Government of Puerto Rico has come to recognize that by increasing the number of flights and seats connecting through Puerto Rico, they increase the number of flights, seats and flexibility of passengers traveling to Puerto Rico. This point was made most forcefully in a recent meeting in San Juan and many of the governments to the south of San Juan are relying heavily on decisions being made in Puerto Rico for their continued survival.

All governments also understand that with the current structure of the airline industry, it is indispensably necessary to ensure that the flights coming into Puerto Rico can connect easily to the onward carriers such that travelers traveling beyond the hub can connect online or through their travel agent seamlessly. Without those connections many of the southern destinations are invisible in electronic booking systems. It is this interdependence that is forcing discussions between governments at an unprecedented level and at an unprecedented rate.

The same level of cooperation is beginning in the areas of marketing and in providing airline guarantees. In the past few years, an increasing proportion of the funds voted to departments of tourism across the world are being forced into escrow to cover airline guarantees. That leaves far less available for the promotion. This situation has compelled Caribbean governments to aggregate their promotional budgets for greater promotional efficiency and to devise financial arrangements that reduce the cost of these arrangements which also serve to minimize the risk.

"There is a silver lining on every cloud," according to Allen Chastanet, Chairman of the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). "We believe that this high level of cooperation is being driven by the Governments, the private sector and the people of each territory recognizing that we in the Caribbean are more interdependent than independent," he emphasized. "Governments now realize that if they do not cooperate to maximize benefits or minimize risk to their countries, they will be called to account by their people asking why they refused to cooperate."

Peter Odle, the President of the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) also commented on this suddenly elevated level of cooperation. Odle noted that, "Even though the cooperation between CTO and CHA has grown over the past several years, I see increased cooperation on this issue even at the destination level where members of the private sector are ensuring that their governments are engaged in these cooperative ventures. I promise you, the private sector gets it. We will achieve much more in addressing this crisis through intra-regional cooperation than we can ever achieve by going alone. I will tell you that those governments that do not cooperate will be seen as pariahs by both their own people as well as by other governments in the region."

At the meeting in Antigua, four task forces were established, headed by Ministers to examine the four critical issues. These committees will report to the CTO and CHA Board meetings which will be held prior to the inaugural Annual Caribbean Tourism Summit (ACTS) in Washington, D.C. The results of these committees will also be presented to the Caricom Heads at their meeting in Antigua on July 2nd.

Governments have also come to recognize that they need to cooperate in speaking together with one voice to the government of the United States on a number of critical issues and they propose to take advantage of their presence in Washington to begin those discussions. Thus it appears that this unprecedented spirit of cooperation will continue even beyond the current situation.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING TIMOTHY L. MOORE FOR HIS 24 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE SECURITY FORCES

HON. ZACHARY T. SPACE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Mr. SPACE. Madam Speaker:

Whereas, Timothy L. Moore spent 24 years in dedicated service to the United States Air Force Security Forces; and

Whereas, Mr. Moore has received high honors such as the Air Force Security Forces Outstanding Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2005 and the Inspector General Outstanding Performer Award in 2003; and